

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 17, 2006

The Department of Children and Family Services has developed the Multi-Agency Response Team (MART) to work in collaboration with law enforcement to provide protective services to children identified in homes associated with high levels of illegal gang, firearm and narcotic activity; as well as investigating other high profile child endangerment cases. The goal of MART is to provide a more expedited and trained response to law enforcement referrals so as to minimize the traumatic effect these crimes have on children and families.

Since its inception in January 2004, MART has proven to be an effective partner to law enforcement, assisting in investigations involving over 3000 children that have resulted in approximately 1500 placements. The team works proactively with law enforcement and helps to minimize the trauma to children in families involved in illegal activity. Nevertheless, there have been concerns raised that some youth detained by MART have posed a threat to themselves or other children by bringing cell phones or contraband into their foster home and have undermined placement efforts by contacting family members or others involved in the family's criminal activity.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Department of Children and Family Services, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department, County Counsel and Probation Department, review and enhance the placement protocols for children and youth detained by the MART team, with particular focus on:

- Enhancing procedures that will ensure that children are not detained with contraband, weapons or communication devices that could result in endangerment to themselves or others, as well as,
- Identifying and developing additional foster and group home placements that are specifically trained to receive and protect high profile MART-identified children.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Department report back to the Board in 60 days.

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